



738th ASMC treats servicemembers

Story and photos by Lance

Cpl. Drew Hendricks

MNC-I PAO

The 738th Area Support Medical Company, Indiana National Guard, is made up of a rather small contingent of soldiers responsible for the health of thousands of personnel here. Though small, these Soldiers continue to keep Camp Victory personnel alive and healthy.

"Our number one priority is to provide world class health care to the servicemembers and civilians here on post," said Maj. Jeffrey T. Williams, commander, 738th ASMC. "With the level of care and evacuation capabilities, we are more than capable to handle our mission."

The members of the 738th work day and night on 24-hour rotations providing medical care to any personnel that may need it.

"We have one health care provider on call 24 hours a day," said 1st Sgt. Thomas E. Butler, company first sergeant, 738th ASMC. "Even if Soldiers come in after sick call hours we will never turn them away from care."

The care servicemembers receive from

the Golby Medical Clinic is extensive. They provide everything from routine medical treatment to lab facilities and emergency response services.

"We are a level two facility; we do everything but surgery," said Butler. "Combat Support Hospitals, like the one at the International Zone, take what we cannot handle, but we have every capability to get the patients there."

The patients that come through the doors of the medical center are as numerous as its responsibilities.

"We take care of the full spectrum of patients," said Sgt. 1st Class Bruce

P. Cunningham, platoon sergeant, 738th ASMC. "Routine allergies, sports injuries and traumas, we get it all."

The center averages 50 patients a day and handles all mass casualty evacuations here.

"We also have patient holding areas for those troops being evacuated to Landstuhl or to the states depending on the injury," said Butler. "Along with medical treatment we also provide post deployment medical screenings here, something that all personnel have to attend before heading back home."

The soldiers of the 738th do not just take care of patients; they also take care of themselves.

"We are pretty self sufficient," said Butler. "We have our own ambulances, motor pool, medical and unit supplies; we also take care of all our own maintenance."

The 738th also provides service to Iraqis as well.

"We have several medics out there training and teaching the Iraqis medical skills," said Cunningham.

With such a large amount of responsibilities and only a few Soldiers, the command has

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A Patient at Golby Medical Clinic is screened by a medical technician. The 738th Area Support Medical Company, is responsible for the health of thousands of personnel here.

Camp Victory Three-day forecast

Friday



Sunny
High: 85 F
Low: 60 F

Saturday



Mostly Cloudy
High: 86 F
Low: 61 F

Sunday



T-Storms
High: 81 F
Low: 59 F

In today's Victory Times:

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Chaplain's Corner

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Red Cross supports our troops and our families

Story by Spc. Curt Squires

MNC-I PAO

The American Red Cross communicates on behalf of family members to servicemembers stationed around the world, 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year.

ARC provides services to more than 1.4 million active duty personnel and their families, as well as 800,000 members of the National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve who reside in nearly every community in America, according to www.redcross.org.

Of the three ARC stations in Iraq, the station here has handled more than 2,900 emergency messages since Jan. 1, 2006, accumulating roughly 33 percent of the total number for Iraq.

The ARC's major role in theater is providing commanders with accurate information so the servicemember and commander can make a leave decision, said Deanna Young, team leader, American Red Cross, Camp Victory, Iraq.

An example of this is if someone emails a servicemember informing them a loved one has suffered a heart attack.

"Well, what kind of heart attack?" Young questioned. "Is it where you need to get on the next plane because their having a quadruple bypass today, or is it a minimal one where they need to change their diet and introduce some physical fitness. And then

you may not need to go home on leave at the point."

Not all the messages delivered by the Red Cross are of a negative or urgent matter, said Young.

The Red Cross does deliver non-urgent messages such as births of children and other personal messages from family members, continued Young.

If you receive a non-emergency message, it does not go through the servicemember's chain-of-command, she added. There is no leave decision, and the messages are normally personal in nature, so it goes directly to the servicemember.

"Needless to say, that doesn't mean folks should assume they know who it is from, and what it is about; we still need to speak with that servicemember directly," Young said.

To send an emergency message to a service member, families can call the Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Service Center at 877-272-7337.

The American Red Cross was founded in 1881 by Clara Burton. The ARC has been working with the military since the Spanish-American War in 1898 until the present Global War on Terrorism.

According to www.redcross.org, the ARC staff has delivered more than 250,000 emergency messages in Iraq since the war began. ARC has also distributed 200,000 comfort kits and 70,000 calling cards to those serving in Iraq.

Letters from home

Spc. Michael J. Woods, MNC-I, Command Group,

Jason-Gosh, do I miss you!! Realizing that, it has to be the best part of everyday for me. It proves to my heart how much we really love each other, and only God can do that!! Thank you for your dedication to our family and to the world's families. You are my hero! God bless you and keep you safe!

Love your BEST friend, Kim



MNC-I SURGEON'S COMBAT MEDICAL TRAINING CENTER PRESENTS

COMBAT LIFESAVER CERTIFICATION COURSE
BASIC LIFE SUPPORT COURSE
EMT REFRESHER COURSE

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2nd and 4th Thursdays of Every Month

Basic Life Support Course
10 SEATS PER CLASS
1st Friday and 1st Monday of Every Month

EMT Refresher Course
10 SEATS PER CLASS
3rd Monday of Every Month

To reserve a seat or for more information, contact:
 Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Davis
Christopher.Davis@iraq.centcom.mil
 DSN: 852-1230

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Vow Renewal Ceremony at Alkaw Palace

Who: Married Soldiers who are in Iraq and wish to be a part of this historical moment of renewing their vows inside Baghdad's Alkaw Palace.

When: April 1 @ 2 p.m.

Why: So that you can tell your grandchildren about it



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BAGHDAD CANAL CRUISERS

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The Baghdad Canal Cruisers is a Radio Controlled electric boat club. Located on Camp Victory. We are currently looking for new members to join our R/C electric boat club.

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and

VICTORY TIMES

ON THE WEB!




WWW.MNCCENTCOM.MIL

Medical detachment holds change of command

Story by 1st Lt. Anthony L. Pittelkau

898th Medical Detachment

Capt. James J. Meckel accepted command of the 898th Medical Detachment, 30th Medical Brigade from Lt. Col. Sonya S. Schleich in a ceremony here March 21.

Schleich served as a medical entomologist for the Center of Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine-West, Fort Lewis, Wash. before becoming the commander of the reserve preventive medicine detachment in 2005. From Camp Victory, Schleich is headed to Ft. Lewis, Wash. where she will resume her former role in CHPPM-W.

Meckel comes to the 898th Medical Detachment from his position as a Professional Officer Filler System executive officer, 981st Medical Detachment, 1st Medical Brigade, Kuwait.

Meckel has completed overseas tours in Korea and Kuwait. His stateside assignments included serving as the executive officer for the Clinical Support Division, Operations officer and Medical Company commander, all at Ft. Bliss, Texas. He also completed a tour as an Army Medical Department Health Care recruiter in

Huntington, W. V.

Meckel is a graduate of the AMEDD Officer Basic and Advanced courses, Principles of Military Preventive Medicine course and is currently enrolled in the Intermediate Level Education course. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from East Central University in Ada, Okla. and a Masters of Public Health degree in epidemiology from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, N.M.

His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with two oak-leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with five oak-leaf clusters, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Recruiter's Badge and the Air Assault Badge.



Photo by 898th Med. Det.

Lt. Col. Sonya S. Schleich, commander, 898th Medical Detachment, passes the guidon to Lt. Col. William B. Grimes, commander, Multifunctional Medical Brigade, during the 898th Med. Bde. change of command ceremony here March 21.

Chaplain's Corner

"I Just Don't Feel Thankful"

Chaplain (MAJ) Charles M. Herring
MNC-I Chaplain Section

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his kindness endures forever!" Psalm 107:1

The battle was over. They held their ground against the enemy. However, the victory was paid in blood. Several Soldiers were wounded and one soldier was killed. Afterward, sitting on the median curb cleaning their weapons they began to talk in low serious tones. Most were talking about how thankful they were to be alive. One Soldier, his face covered in sweat streamed dirt, stopped, looked at his sergeant and slowly said, "God, forgive me, I just don't feel thankful!"

The stress of a Soldier's life has a way of blinding us to the strengths of a soldier's life. I noticed in myself and after talking to some soldiers that we felt embarrassed over being "weak" and ashamed to acknowledge our "weakness." It was hard to accept with appreciation the help we received from others.

My Father in heaven did not need my gratitude. The point is I needed to

be grateful. Now, I honestly believe that thankfulness is a powerful healing force in a warrior's spirit. A grateful heart deepens faith. A thankful heart enhances the quality of life. A heart of gratitude is an honest heart. I need to thank God when I am in the depths of despair as well as the heights of hopefulness. How did I and how can you be grateful, regardless of daily "combat" stresses? Three focal points made the difference for me.

First, thankfully focus on simple things: family and comrades in arms. I carried a photo of Mrs. Herring in my journal to remind me of her love and support every time I opened it. My Chaplain Assistant, Staff Sgt. Derek Cooke, also was my "bodyguard" (Chaplains are not permitted to carry a weapon). I ate so many MRE's that I could just refer to their number instead of ingredients - "Staff Sgt. Cooke, please throw me an 11" - (Pasta with vegetables in tomato sauce). Give thanks as you continue to add up the simple things.

Second, thank God even when things really suck! Sure, it is easy to be thankful when things are going great. Thank God for sand in your eye, sand in your soda and even sand in your shorts! Now that takes work! Saint Paul reminded the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always, never cease pray-

ing, render constant thanks..." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). When your feelings are raw and your heart is heavy or confused, consciously and deliberately choose to give thanks. Times of suffering remind us of God's presence and allow us to draw closer to Him.

Lastly, thank others. Mark Twain once said, "I can live for two months on one good compliment". When was the last time you told someone, "Thanks, man." Claim these daily opportunities to bring God's love to others by expressing appreciation for their actions or presence. It costs nothing and it starts a ripple effect of thankfulness.

These battle tested Soldiers at the beginning of the story carried (and continue to carry) tremendous mission responsibilities. They simply trusted in the goodness of a God who loves them and wants only the best for them. Despite daily stress of combat patrols, these warriors lived in profound thankfulness. As you become more aware of the blessings in your life, a similar spirit of gratitude and thankfulness will gradually awaken in you.

To our Father in heaven and all the service men and women, coalition partners and the rest of the Camp Victory team this old Trooper says, "Thanks, man".

ASMC

its hands full keeping the company running smoothly, but somehow we manage to do it, said Butler.

"Our Soldiers continue to get the job done no matter what the circumstances," said Butler. "By cross training and staying flexible we are able to back fill jobs."

It is not only military training that makes the soldiers of the 738th excellent at their jobs. It is also the expertise they bring from their civilian practices that adds to their military experience, said Butler.

"We have a few nurses, numerous doctors, paramedics and one dentist, all who are medical professionals in the civilian world,"

said Cunningham.

With close to 1,500 patients a month and the possibility of mass casualty incidents, these Soldiers have their work cut out for them.

Even though their jobs can be hard and overwhelming, the Soldiers of the 738th continue to soldier on, stepping up to the plate and completing their mission, said both Williams and Butler.

"The transition they (Soldiers of the 738th) have made from their civilian lifestyles to their military is excellent, they are not just providing health care but are soldiering as well," said Butler. "They are, and will continue to provide, the most excellent health care service."



Photo by Spc. Curt Squires, MNC-I PAO

(Right) Pvt. Joseph Boje, gunner, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, pulls security from his Humvee on Route Redwing March 20. Elements of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division control Redwing and have halted freedom of movement to Iraqi's after approximately 25 improvised explosive devices detonated on the road in the month of January.

(Left) An Irbil police officer stops traffic in downtown to allow a U.S. military convoy to pass through the city without being obstructed by downtown traffic.

Despite pay problems, the police officers in the northern Iraq city of Irbil continue to come to work, said AbduKareem Sultan Abdulla Sinjari, Minister of the Interior, Kurdistan Regional Government. The dedication is helping restore peace and happiness to a country that is currently at war.



Photo by Spc. James P. Hunter, MNC-I PAO

KEEP IT LOCKED ON...



Al Asad	107.3 FM	Kirkush	107.3 FM
Al Basra	107.3 FM	Mosul	105.1 FM
Ar Ramadi	107.3 FM	Q-West	93.3 FM
Baghdad	107.7 FM	Taji	107.3 FM
Balad	107.3 FM	Tal Afar	107.3 FM
Fallujah	105.1 FM	Taqadum	107.3 FM
Kirkuk	107.3 FM	Tikrit	100.1 FM

Freedom Radio



OPERATION TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM

OPERATION TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM SPEAKERS BUREAU
Bringing Stories from the Front Lines Back Home

Returning Soldiers have a lot of stories to tell, and the Operation Tribute to Freedom Speakers Bureau works with event organizers to identify Soldiers and stories to enhance events.

Incorporating the perspectives of Soldiers who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan can add a unique dimension to discussions on a variety of topics. Local Soldiers are available to fill a variety of events.

Topics Soldiers are invited to speak on include:

- Camaraderie
- Experiences in Iraq/Afghanistan
- Leadership
- Mentorship
- Teamwork



To find out more information or to request a Soldier to speak, visit the Speakers Bureau section of the OTF Web site at WWW.ARMY.MIL/OTF or contact us at 202-628-1811 or tribute@freedom@hqda.army.mil

"Students came up to me afterwards to express how moved they were after hearing from the Soldiers."

— Pablo Bracido, AFN Irbil on 11 March '06

WWW.ARMY.MIL/OTF

998th Medical Detachment (PM)

PRESENTS

UNIT FIELD SANITATION TEAM CERTIFICATION TRAINING

April 24-27

WE HAVE 15 SEATS IN THIS CLASS, THEY WILL BE GIVEN FIRST COME FIRST SERVE.

TO RESERVE A SEAT OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sgt. CHRISTIA SKERBECK
christia.skerbeck@iraq.centcom.mil

or

Staff Sgt. JEFFREY NOELLE
jeffrey.noelle@iraq.centcom.mil



DSN 318-822-2851

MNF-I/MNC-I

HUMAN RELATIONS/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICE

PRESENTS

HUMAN RELATIONS AND SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROGRAM TRAINING

LOCATION
AL FAW PALACE BALLROOM

DATES
April 5, 10, 20, AND 26

TIMES
1300 – 1500

POINT OF CONTACT FOR THIS TRAINING IS THE
MNC-I HR/EO OFFICE @ 822-3532/3545

Operating hours

Coalition Cafe

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5:30 - 8 p.m.
Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Sports Oasis

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5:30 - 9 p.m.

Shoppette

Open 24 Hours

Camp Liberty Post Exchange

Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fitness Center

Open 24 Hours

Post Office

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

Golby Troop Medical Clinic

Sick Call Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Dental Sick Call:

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Mental Health Clinic:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Post Deployment Health Briefings:

Monday - Friday 1 p.m.

Pharmacy:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon, 1 - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday 7:30 a.m. - noon

Legal Assistance/Claims

Saturday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Personnel Service Support Centers

Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

ID Cards

Monday - Friday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



TO THE AL FAW PALACE POST OFFICE



HOURS OF OPERATION:

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MNC-I, CAMP VICTORY, BAGHDAD

TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT



OPEN TO ALL PERSONNEL



Tournaments will be held twice a month (the second and last Mondays).



Prizes will be awarded to the winner.



Limited to 48 people (6 tables), please sign up early. Walk-ins are welcome if space is available.

CONTACT INFORMATION: For information or to sign up for April's tournaments call or email: Sgt. Joseph Mahoney

DSN: 822 2065

joseph.mahoney@iraq.centcom.mil



TIME: 8 p.m.

PLACE: MWR Bldg. 124

TOURNAMENT DATES:

April 10 and April 24



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PLACE: EDUCATION CENTER, CAMP VICTORY
HOURS: Monday, Wednesday, AND Friday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

BRING YOUR W-2's AND OTHER PERTINENT DOCUMENTATION! WE ARE HERE TO ASSIST YOU IN FILING TAXES.
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NOTE: THIS PROGRAM IS FOR SERVICE MEMBERS ONLY

VICTORY!

Worship Opportunities

Victory Chapel (Bldg. 31)

Sunday:

Traditional Protestant Service 7 and 8:45 a.m.
Roman Catholic Confession 10 a.m.
Roman Catholic Mass 10:30 a.m.
Gospel Protestant Service noon
Latter Day Saints Service 2 p.m.
Episcopal/Lutheran Service 4 p.m.
Contemporary Protestant Service 6 p.m.

Saturday:

7th Day Adventist Service 11 a.m.
Roman Catholic Mass 8 p.m.

Mini-Chapel (Bldg. 2)

Monday - Friday
Roman Catholic Service 4 p.m.

Friday:

Jewish Service 6:30 p.m.

Saturday:

Orthodox:

Orthodox Vespers 5 p.m.
Orthodox Confession 5:30 p.m.
Orthodox Bible Study 7 p.m.

Sunday:

Orthodox Divine Liturgy 9 p.m.

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This driver was wearing his seat belt, driving within the speed limit and he was in his proper lane.



The driver of this vehicle had his life tragically altered by a reckless driver.

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Submit letters from home

Is your loved one deployed in support of Multi-National Corps-Iraq? Would you like to write him or her a message in the Victory Times? Send messages, three to four lines of text to brian.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil.

Ensure to include Soldiers name, rank, and unit.

Victory Times welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to brian.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil.

We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.

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